

Bumps in the Night!!!!

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Paranormal "U"

Ambient vs Surface Temperatures

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This article will describe the differences between ambient and surface temperatures, devices used to measure them, and why paranormal investigators measure for ambient and surface temperatures during investigations.

Differences between ambient and surface temperatures:

Ambient temperature is defined as the temperature of the surrounding environment. The ambient temperature of a room can be measured with a regular thermometer. Ambient temperature does NOT take into account wind or humidity in the air. Wind causes what we call "wind chill" which makes the environment seem colder than it really is. The amount of humidity in the air can cause the "heat index" to increase making it feel warmer than it really is.

Surface temperature is simply the temperature of an object that may be emitting heat or cold. Surface temperature of an object may be hotter or colder than the ambient (or surrounding) temperature of an object. Similar to ambient temperature, surface temperature does not take wind or humidity into account.

Devices used to measure ambient and surface temperatures:

Paranormal investigators commonly use different devices to measure ambient and surface temperatures.

Digital thermometers are used to measure the ambient temperature of a room or different areas of a room. Many EMF meters have built in digital thermometers. This cuts down on the number of devices you need to carry when investigating

Infrared or IR thermometers are used to measure surface temperatures of objects. The device shoots an infrared beam against the object you want to measure and sends back a signal that relays the temperature of that object.

Why paranormal investigators measure for ambient and surface temperatures during investigations:

It is believed that an entity draws heat energy when it is trying to manifest itself. In doing so, the area where the entity is manifesting becomes cold. Because of this theory, it is important to take baseline temperature readings of a location before investigating. Baseline readings can be taken with both digital & IR thermometers. The digital thermometer can measure the ambient temperature of a room. The IR thermometer can be used to measure the temperature of walls, doors, windows, or any object in the room. This is important because sometimes windows or doors may not be properly sealed or walls may not be properly insulated. This can cause temperature fluctuations near those surfaces. If you do not take these baseline readings, you may think you are standing in a cold spot but the reality is you are standing near a wall that is not properly insulated. These baseline readings should be carried in-hand while investigating in case any cold spots are detected. If a cold spot is detected, the baseline reading should be referenced. The investigator should then use the digital thermometer to take a temperature reading of the area where the cold spot was detected and compare it against the baseline reading. If it is significantly colder than the baseline reading, you should conduct your investigation in that area. Remember that the IR thermometer will not pick up cold spots in a room. It only measures surface temperature of objects.